GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:302
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2000
MEETING OF STATES FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES MINISTERS
AVTAR SINGH BHADANA;GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food and Civil Supply Ministers of the North-Eastern States, West Bengaland Sikkim met recently to discuss the problems relating to the Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the main subjects discussed therein and the decisions taken thereon;

(c) whether any discussion regarding pilferage and marketing of food and other commodities with neighbouring countries including Myanmar and China was held; and

(d) if so, the decisions taken and the concrete steps being taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(SHRI SHANTA KUMAR)
(a),(b),(c) & (d) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a),(b),(c) & (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 302 FOR ANSWER IN LOK SABHA ON 16-03-2000.

(a),(b),(c) & (d) : The Government of India received from the Assam Government on the 29th January, 2000, a copy of the resolutions adopted in the meeting of the Ministers and Secretaries of Food and Civil Supplies of the North Eastern States, Sikkim and West Bengal held on the 17th and 18th January, 2000 at Guwahati. The Union Government was not invited to attend this meeting. The perusal of the Resolution adopted in the meeting shows that the problems relating to the Public Distribution System (PDS) were discussed in this meeting.

The main subjects discussed and resolutions adopted at the meeting related to development of storage facilities, road, railways and waterways infrastructure, trade in food and other essential commodities, availability of foodgrains/petroleum products, pilferage and black marketing of PDS items, procurement and lifting of essential commodities, smuggling ofPDS items across the international border and border trade of food and other essential commodities with neighbouring countries (Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar and China).

Resolutions adopted in most parts relate to action to be taken by the State Government themselves. The Government has already held one round of discussions with North Eastern States at Aizawl on 3.2.2000, wherein, some of the points relating to the aforesaid meeting were discussed. Yet another meeting is planned in which all the participating States to the said conference will be invited to deliberate on the resolutions and to take appropriate action wherever necessary.